

Conversion Plant into Operation

The first general purpose sea water conversion plant on the Pacific Coast was put into operation recently by Southern California Edison Company at its steam plant on Mandalay Beach near Oxnard, California.

World-wide interest has been expressed in this project not only because it employs a new distillation principle but also because it will be the subject of an intensive three year research program.

Equipment for this demonstration plant was furnished by Cleaver-Brooks Special Products, Inc., of Waukesha, Wis., and Jacobs Engineering Co. of Pasadena were consulting engineers for the Edison Company. Cost of the unit and installation was reported in excess of \$250,000.

EDISON OFFICIALS said the unit will be utilized to search for a more economical method of extracting potable water from the sea by distillation. This plant, they said, is the first of its kind in the country to be used in conjunction with an existing steam-electric generation station.

Experience and data derived from experiments with this pilot plant are expected to provide technical and cost information leading to the eventual construction of saline water plants with capacities of five to ten million gallons a day of potable water.

"HOWEVER, WE are talking about the future," cautioned Edison District Manager G. L. Blanchard, "and it should be emphasized that this is a pilot, experimental plant, one that cannot be expected to produce water at a cost competitive in any way to present Southern California sources such as the Colorado River or even the proposed Feather River Project."

Although Edison's saline water converter is comparatively small with a total daily output of 100,000 gallons, it has excited interest because the opportunities it affords for use of waste and lower grade heat.

IT UTILIZES steam which has nearly passed through the station's turbine and is extracted for use in the evaporator plant. As a result, it is relatively inexpensive heat. Its design incorporates an unusual amount of operating flexibility. This will allow us to operate it in a number of different ways for our experimental purposes," Blanchard said.

The converter is the most advanced equipment yet produced by Cleaver-Brooks, a company that has been building evaporators for commercial clients and the armed forces for several years. It is a multi-stage flash evaporator which takes advantage of water's changing boiling point when pressure is varied.

This type evaporator, accord-

Double Session Classes Eased By New Projects

Opening of classroom additions at 4 elementary schools in Torrance will take three schools off double sessions, according to Superintendent J. H. Hull.

Classroom additions opened this week at Edison, Madrona, and Steel Schools. Another classroom addition at Walteria School is expected to open next week, barring last-minute difficulties. Also slated for opening is the Torrance Elementary School cafeteria. The classroom additions will take Edison, Madrona, and Walteria, schools off double sessions.

At the same time, bids are expected to be sought within 30 days for classroom additions to Carr, Crenshaw, Flavian, Meadow Park, and Magruder Elementary Schools.

Projects are underway on 19 separate school sites at the present time, built with building bond funds.

ing to Cleaver-Brooks officials, has several advantages, including substantially scale-free operation, simplicity of operation, use of relatively low level heat sources, and favorable initial cost.

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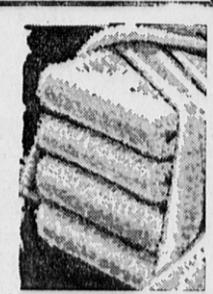
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